

PRICE THREE CENTS.

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BREAK IN COAL STRIKE

## OPERATORS SEE A SPEEDY

MANY MEN TO RETURN TO WORK TO-  
DAY. THEY SAY—SITUATION STILL  
CRITICAL IN SOME DISTRICTS.

Wilkesbarre, Penn., Sept. 19.—If the operators' statement is correct, the first break in the big strike is on the point of taking place, and it is due to them a speedy ending. They believe that as soon as the mine owners agree to begin to return to work the heart of the revolt from the operators' rule will fall. The reports received by the mine owners in this city to-day indicate that many of the men are already tired of the strike, and feeling that it cannot be successful as it now stands, want to work. The Pennsylvania Coal Company has received applications from 420 men for work and protection; the Moosic Company has been asked by 150 men.

This afternoon 475 Lithuanians met in the cellar of their church at Mahanoy City and decided to return to work. They are Philadelphia and Reading men. The miners from Summit

Failing to get the men there to strike, marched back and decided to go to work in the morning. At the Burnside Colliery at Tamaqua (Philadelphia and Reading), 575 men have promised to go back to work in the morning. The Tremont and Tower City mines of the Philadelphia and Reading, the Lost Creek and Cranberry mine, and the Lattimer, of Pottsville, are all working.

with more men to-day than they have had since the strike began, the men in the Shenandoah region refuse to quit work, and the strikers failed signally to get the men at the West End district to go out. The operators give this array of facts this evening as evidence that the strikers are beginning to lose ground, and thus to offset this they have made but slight gains at a few places. One of the operators said this afternoon:

I consider the situation encouraging. The complete tie up predicted has not materialized, and the strike has not long to last. While it is seemingly going here, it must by no means be considered lasting for the larger percentage of the men have gone out solely to find out the union's strength. They now see the situation clearly and are willing to return rather than do themselves further earnings. I do not think that the men in the lower end have not come out with them has had a discouraging effect on the real strikers, and their ranks will surely be reduced. I think it is possible to every means possible to bring the Schuylkill and Hazleton men out, but I do not think they will succeed. If they remain at the strike in the lower end I do not think the work will longer stop in the middle and lower end. Tomorrow's outlook is certainly a very gloomy one to the strike leaders.

On the other hand, the strikers report substantial gains in the Hazleton district and the closing of the Harwood Mine, the shutting down of the No. 6 and Hort shafts of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, at Pittston, this morning; the reduction in the forces at several collieries in the Schuylkill region and a slight increase in the Tanawana region. They assert that the

conditions are growing more favorable each day. The operators dispute the claim of President Mitchell, who asserts that 118,000 men are on strike, and say that between 85,000 and 90,000 men are out. In this region the strikers made a gain by inducing the men at the Hoyt and No. 6 shafts of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, at Pittston, to remain away from work, and these men did so this morning; but their appeal later to Vice-President Thorne for work and protection was evidence of their feeling. The West End Colliery worked all day with a full force, and remains a thorn in the side of the union, being the only colliery in all the upper coal field where any work is being done.

FAILING TO START A UNION.

Last night President Nichols and four organizers failed in their efforts to start a union, and met with little favorable response to their efforts to interest the men in strikes matters. Only

minating this morning when the breaker whistled at 6 o'clock the union people, numbering about fifteen hundred, started a strike leading to the breaker. Many men were halted on the way to work and asked to go on strike and become members of the union, but all refused to listen except ten or twelve men, their work as usual. Work was delayed about thirty minutes, due to the stopping of the mine. The Polish employes of the mine held a picnic on Saturday, when several labor leaders wanted to address them on the strike question, but the Poles refused to permit it, claiming that they had good jobs and did not want to strike. The labor leaders insisted on speaking, whereupon the Poles drove them out of the grove with a fusillade of stones. The company has no trouble with its men if they are left alone by the labor leaders. The washery is being run night and day, and the breaker is kept busy nearly all day.

The strikers of Shickshinny are with the company and denounce strike talk in bitter terms. They say if the men quit work they will quit giving them trust. Just now caravans of farmers' wagons, numbering as high as thirty in a row at one time, pass to and fro through Shickshinny hauling the winter supply of coal. Many of these farmers come from as far as thirty miles back of Shickshinny, where coal cannot be transported by railroad. The only place in this district where there has been serious trouble is at the North American Coal Company washery along the mountain near Luzerne Borough. The men there have been driven from their work by strikers from adjoining mines, and the officials have made a second appeal to Sheriff Harvey asking him to send deputies to guard the washery. They claim that yesterday two men were severely injured during an attack made by the strikers, but refuse to give their names. The Sheriff has been in the Hazleton district all the week, has not answered their demands, and they have been compelled to stop work. The

may, however, that they pay taxes and will have protection. Except for this case and the request of the Coxes, in the Hazelton region Sheriff Harvey has had no demands for aid. He has not decided whether in either case it is necessary to send men.

**WOMEN ASSAULT A WATCHMAN.**

A watchman at the Mount Lookout colliery of the Temple Iron and Coal Company was assaulted by a number of women this morning. They bombarded him with slugs, tin cans and overripe fruit until he was compelled to take refuge in the office. This has been the only case of violence in the last two days, and it is not believed that it will continue. The strike

leaders are denouncing it, and the companies are rapidly placing special men on guard at the collieries, and as these men are armed a conflict between them and the strikers would lead to serious trouble. These special men are trusted non-union miners and company hands, clerks and members of the engineering corps whom the companies have been compelled to lay off. They